



A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR COMMEMORATING THE CIVIL WAR'S
IMPORTANT PLACES AND COMPELLING STORIES WITHIN THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S SOUTHEAST REGION



A NATION DIVIDED,
A NATION REUNITED; AND THE FIRST STEPS
ON THE PATH TO FULL CITIZENSHIP
FOR ALL AMERICANS

FALL, 2010

THE UNITED STATES AS
WE KNOW IT TODAY
BEGAN NOT WITH THE
REVOLUTION OF 1776,
BUT RATHER WITH
THE NEW NATION THAT
EMERGED FROM THE
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.



Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

SOUTHEAST REGION
CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL
STEERING COMMITTEE

Woody Harrell – Superintendent, Shiloh National Military Park

Kathleen Jenkins – Superintendent, Natchez National Historical Park

Steve McCoy – Superintendent, Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Dawn Davis – Chief of Interpretation and Education,
Fort Sumter National Monument

Terry Winschel – Historian, Vicksburg National Military Park

Don Wollenhaupt – Chief of Interpretation and Education,
Southeast Regional Office

Carol Shively – Communications Coordinator,
Civil War Sesquicentennial, Southeast Regional Office

A CALL TO ARMS!



Fort Donelson National Battlefield

photo courtesy of Francis Kowal Ross

*"The Civil War Sesquicentennial marks a critical anniversary
in our nation's history. Let's seize this special opportunity to
engage our visitors to reflect and discover the war's meaning
and relevance in their lives today!"*

David Vela, Regional Director



NPS VISION

FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL



AS STEWARD OF SIGNIFICANT CIVIL WAR ERA BATTLEFIELDS AND RELATED SITES, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MUST BE THE LEADER IN COMMEMORATING ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST DEFINING NATIONAL STRUGGLES AND THE IMPACT OF THAT STRUGGLE ON PRESENT DAY AMERICA.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS HIGHLY REGARDED FOR SKILLFULLY TELLING THE STORY OF THE WAR ITSELF; THE BATTLES AND TACTICS; WHO SUCCEEDED AND WHO FAILED. IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF *HOLDING THE HIGH GROUND*, NPS STORIES MUST ALSO ADDRESS THE WAR'S CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES.



IN PARTICULAR, THE NPS WILL ADDRESS THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY AS THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR, AS WELL AS THE TRANSITION FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM—AFTER THE WAR—FOR THE 4 MILLION PREVIOUSLY ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS. THE SERVICE MUST INTRODUCE THE PEOPLE OF THE BATTLEFRONT AND HOMEFRONT, WHO THEY WERE, AND HOW THEY LIVED.

THROUGH THE COMMEMORATION, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WILL PROVIDE THE NATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT UPON THIS MOMENTOUS EVENT WITHIN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND CONTEMPLATIVE. COLLABORATING WITH PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES, THE NPS HAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH MILLIONS OF AMERICANS INCLUDING THOSE WHO, WITH A LITTLE HELP, CAN FIND MEANING WHERE THEY THOUGHT THERE WAS NONE.

THE SOUTHEAST REGION PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING

GOAL:

HOW CAN WE MAKE THE CIVIL WAR
SESQUICENTENNIAL RELEVANT TO
TODAY'S AUDIENCES?



Shiloh National Military Park



Fort Sumter National Monument

THE ISSUES AT THE HEART OF THE WAR 150 YEARS AGO REMAIN RELEVANT TODAY: LEGAL AND SOCIAL EQUALITY, THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HOW DIVERGENT VIEWS ARE RECONCILED IN A DEMOCRACY, PRESERVATION OF THE UNION, NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM, AND THE QUESTION OF ATTAINING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS AND ALL OTHER CITIZENS.

MOVE BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

- Continue to broaden the story to address these larger economic, social, and political issues and offer parallels to the issues of today.
- Include civilian experience and perspectives.
- Provide a more complete context for the war and its aftermath, from Reconstruction through the present day.

OFFER UNMATCHED VISITOR EXPERIENCES

- Invite people to the best places to understand the war – where it happened. Deliver meaningful opportunities to debate the events of the Civil War, the Reconstruction Era, the Civil Rights Movement, and their significance today.
- Ensure all visitor media are up-to-date.
- Create new approaches to help audiences connect to the story.

REACH OUT

- Engage multiple and diverse audiences through a broad range of media and learning opportunities.
- Serve as a respected, reliable source of diverse perspectives on the war and its lasting effects.

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

- Invest in the interpretation, acquisition and preservation of these treasured landscapes important to the Civil War broader story and the scholarship and technology to share the story and its lessons worldwide.
- Increase Americans' awareness of their National Parks, the work of the NPS in their communities, and instill a lifelong desire to experience these special places.



Corinth Contraband Camp,
Shiloh National Military Park

STRATEGIES:

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR GOAL?

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park



Stones River National Battlefield



PARK AND PARTNER OPERATIONS/ENLIGHTENMENT

- Get back to basics in interpreting our mission. Reinforce solid interpretive skills with increased training and evaluation.
- Ensure that each park has well developed interpretive themes and plans that are reviewed periodically.
- Use social science and demographic studies as a means to establish relevancy with our visitors and constituents. One example is linking with AARP, taking advantage of expertise and marketing potential.
- Partner actively with National Heritage Areas in conducting and promoting interpretive programs and events. Share information, ideas and resources.
- Encourage our historians, interpreters and partners to seek out collaborative inclusion of untold or hidden stories.
- Seek support of Regional Leadership Team to prioritize OFS requests for Civil War-related parks throughout the 150th.

TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA

- Develop a traveling exhibit to be used across parks, perhaps multiple copies.
- Establish a task force including representation from IT, historians, interpretation and cultural resource management to aggressively expand web and social media efforts.
- Work with WASO Office of Information to develop an interactive, user-friendly website linking parks with Civil War themes.
- Establish a Civil War heritage-type trail linking involved parks. Promote this with a publication and through the NPS web.

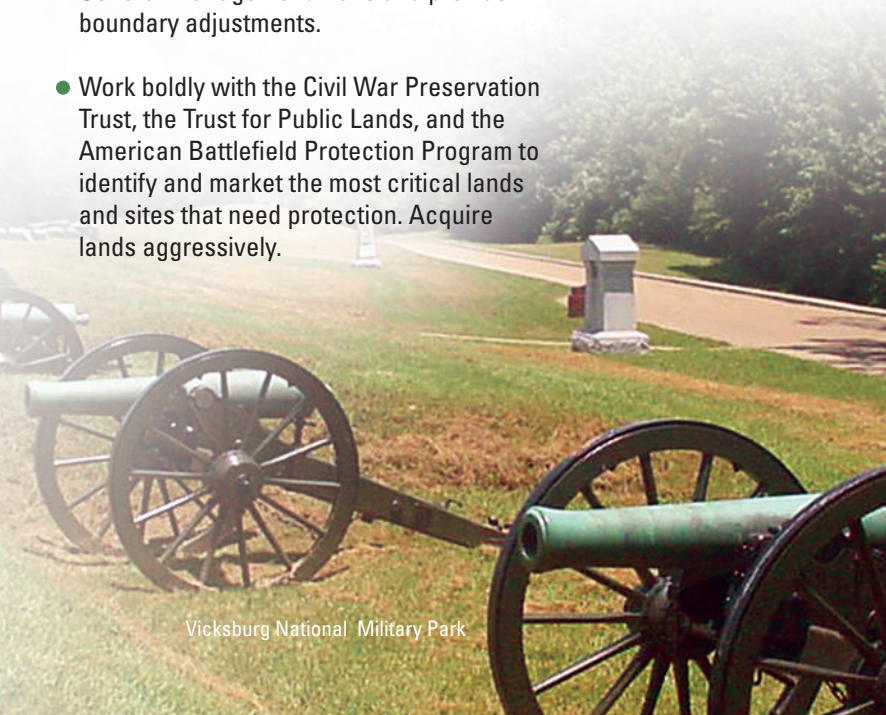
- Add server capacity where necessary to handle huge digital needs associated with 150th data sharing.

EDUCATION

- Create a shared OFS request for Education Coordinator positions to be placed in several parks.
- Develop and/or partner on scholarly symposia hosted in our parks.
- Establish a region-wide or even nationwide Civil War Teacher- Ranger-Teach program.
- Link educational standards in civics, government, citizenship, women's studies, social policy and the Constitution with Civil War themes.

LANDS

- Create PMIS projects for landscape restoration at our battlefields.
- Identify Civil War lands and sites and prioritize for acquisition through a Civil War Sites Survey.
- Establish a process to quickly update existing Special Resource Studies, amend General Management Plans and provide boundary adjustments.
- Work boldly with the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Trust for Public Lands, and the American Battlefield Protection Program to identify and market the most critical lands and sites that need protection. Acquire lands aggressively.



Vicksburg National Military Park

ACTION ITEMS:

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL WE SUPPORT TOGETHER REGIONWIDE AND SERVICEWIDE?

Fort Pulaski National Monument

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Special events will take place almost daily during the Sesquicentennial. These include reenactments, theatrical events, concerts, TV documentaries, symposia, focus groups, cell phone tours, GPS touring, history camps additional ranger-led activities, etc.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Some special events will be larger in scale and feature dignitary involvement, reaching higher numbers of visitors. These will be considered Signature Events. The National Committee has identified 13 Signature Events which will happen in the course of the Commemoration. Several will occur during each of the four years, hosted by various parks. The National Heritage Areas will also conduct a series of Signature Events throughout the Commemoration.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

WEBSITE

The WASO Office of Information will create and maintain a website for the Sesquicentennial, www.nps.gov/civilwar, which will be a powerful means of sharing NPS and partner efforts with the public and the education community.

It will feature a Master Calendar of Events, Special Exhibits, links to National Park Sites, National Heritage Areas, State and partner sites and other valuable references. It will include podcasts, vodcasts, and other tools to tell both the well known and the untold stories of the Civil War. Related tourism strategies will be addressed at www.nps.gov/tourism.



"Let's all stay involved and make this Sesquicentennial relevant, fun and memorable for us employees and volunteers as well as the visiting public."

Don Wollenhaupt
Chief of Interpretation and Education

PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITS

Individual parks and partners will create a number of publications and exhibits for the commemoration. However, the following will be available to all.

The National Committee will produce a Civil War Handbook for the Sesquicentennial written by Civil War authors and NPS historians. Each region will contribute funds to this effort and the handbook will be available as a sales item through Eastern National.

The Southeast Region will create two publications. One will address the military history of the Civil War in the South and the other will investigate the issue of Slavery and the Civil War.

The Southeast Region will produce a portable exhibit panel announcing the Sesquicentennial for each of the Civil War-related sites. Each park will have the opportunity to produce a companion panel specific to their sites.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

LEGACY:

WHAT DO WE WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND WHEN THE COMMEMORATION IS OVER?



AT IT'S MOST FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL, WHEN THE SESQUICENTENNIAL IS COMPLETE, THE CITIZENS OF THIS NATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED TO CONSIDER HOW THEIR LIVES, AND THEIR OWN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, HAVE BEEN SHAPED BY THIS SIGNATURE PERIOD OF AMERICAN HISTORY. THUS, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CIVIL WAR-RELATED PARKS TO CONTINUE AND TO BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

The Southeast Region has *a special responsibility* to interpret serious messages, including slavery, due to the purpose, significance, and primary themes of so many of its parks. Over 20 of the sites in the region are Civil War related.

- Keep the battlefields as sacred ground and honor the memory of those who served and died there.
- Identify the importance of the war in the path of our nation's development to date.
- Discuss the issue of slavery and the concept of liberty.
- Tell the untold stories of the home front.
- Enlighten Park Operations
- Use Emerging Technologies
- Develop and Uphold Education Standards
- Provide Outreach through Education Coordinator Positions
- Preserve as many Civil War lands as possible